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ABSTRACT

Consisting primarily of data tables and bar graphs, this report describes the student population enrolled in credit degree programs at St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC) and its branches (Tarpon Springs Center, Clearwater, and Health Education Center). Focusing on enrollment by the end of the first week of classes in fall 1991, the report also presents enrollment trends for the 5 years from fall 1987 through fall 1991. Study findings include the following: (1) of the 19,271 fall 1991 students, 69.7% were enrolled in the college transfer Associate of Arts degree program, 69.5% attended classes on a part-time basis, 69.8% were between the ages of 15 and 29 years with an average age of 26.6 years, 59.9% were female, and 89.1% were White, 5.2% were Black, 2.3% were Hispanic, and 2% were Asian; (2) the total number of students increased college-wide from 16,599 in fall 1987 to 19,271 in fall 1991; (3) despite an increase in total college-wide headcount enrollment, both Clearwater and St. Petersburg showed a decrease in the percentage of the total for the last 5 years, while the Health Education Center and Tarpon Springs Center showed an increase for the same period; (4) since 1987, a little less than one-third of SPJC students were enrolled for 12 or more hours; (5) between 1987 and 1991, about 60% of SPJC students were female; (6) the percentage of students 19 years of age and under decreased over the 5-year period; (7) the percentages of Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians increased over the 5 years; and (8) since 1988, student enrollment in Associate of Science degree and certificate programs decreased, a phenomenon that has greatly affected college funding. (PAA)

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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

St. Petersburg Junior College

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CREDIT STUDENT ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Executive Summary

This Abstract describes the student population (headcount) enrolled in degree credit programs at the college by the end of the first week of classes (FTE date) during Fall semester 1991 and describes enrollment trends for five years. In Fall 1991, the majority of students were enrolled in A.A. degree programs and attended college part-time. There were more females than males and more students in the 24 years or less age group than in all other age groups combined.

Selected student demographics, then, were compared over a five year time period. The comparison showed that headcount enrollment was increasing at the Tarpon Springs and Health Education Centers. Collegewide, females have exceeded males during the five years; the majority of students continue to be 24 years of age or younger; attend college part-time; are predominantly white, with minorities composing slightly more than one-tenth of the population; and are enrolled in the college transfer A.A. degree program.

Volume 6, Number 1 *October, 1991*

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CREDIT STUDENT ENROLLMENT TRENDS

St. Petersburg Junior College

The purpose of this Abstract is (1) to describe the student population (headcount) enrolled in degree credit programs at SPJC by the end of the first week of classes (FTE date) during the Fall semester 1991, and (2) to compare selected characteristics over a five-year period.

Table 1 describes the Fall 1991 credit student profile at the end of the first week of classes (FTE date) by campus and compares this year's collegewide profile with the same timeframe in Fall 1990:

1. **Program** - Over two-thirds (69.7%) of SPJC students are enrolled in the college transfer A.A. degree program.
2. **Type of Attendance** - Over two-thirds (69.5%) attend classes on a part-time basis.
3. **Age** - Over two-thirds (69.8%) of our students are between 15 and 29 years of age, with an average age of 26.6 years collegewide for all students taking credit courses. The average age of students varies by program of study. Students studying for the A.A. degree program are likely to be the youngest with an average age of 24.7 years; those studying for the A.S. degree and vocational certificates average 29.6 years; and those enrolled in credit courses, but not for a degree, likely to be the oldest, with an average age of 32.3 years.
4. **Gender** - Collegewide there are more females (59.9%) than males (40.1%) and more part-time students (69.5%) than full-time (30.5%). This same pattern is followed on each of the campuses and is consistent with the Fall 1990 profile.
5. **Race** - On a collegewide basis, 89.1% of our students are white; 5.2% are black; 2.3% are Hispanic; and 2.0% are Asian. The change in enrollment percentages from Fall 1990 to Fall 1991 was greatest for blacks, which increased from 4.7% of total credit enrollment to 5.2%. There are variations in the Fall 1991 collegewide pattern on the campuses. The percentage of white students is greatest at the Tarpon Springs Center (95.5%) and lowest at the St. Petersburg Campus (85.3%); the percentage of blacks is greatest at the St. Petersburg Campus (8.2%) and lowest at the Tarpon Springs Center (0.8%). The percentage of Hispanics is a little higher at Clearwater (2.4%) than at St. Petersburg (2.2%), and lowest at Tarpon Springs (1.9%). The percentage of Asians is greatest at St. Petersburg (2.5%) and lowest at Tarpon Springs (0.9%). Overall, including non-resident aliens, the percentage of minority students increased from 9.8% of the collegewide enrollment in Fall 1990 to 10.9% in Fall 1991.

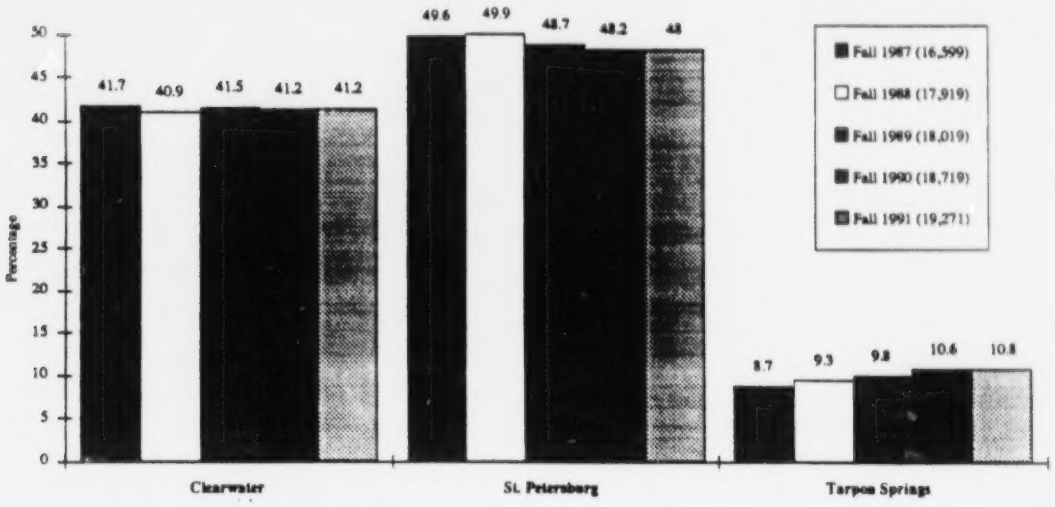
TABLE 1
PROFILE OF CREDIT/AUDIT STUDENT ENROLLMENT
FTE DATE SESSION I, 1991-92

	CLEARWATER		ST. PETERSBURG		TARPON SPRINGS		Total Fall 1991*		Total Fall 1990	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
PROGRAM										
A.A. Degree	5,227	65.9	6,741	72.9	1,466	70.2	**13,436**	**69.7**	12,700	67.8
A.S. Degree	1,322	16.7	1,433	15.5	358	17.1	**3,113**	**16.2**	3,128	16.7
Other Personal Objectives	1,381	17.4	1,078	11.7	263	12.6	**2,722**	**14.1**	2,891	15.4
Total	7,930		9,252		2,087		**19,271**		18,719	
TYPE OF ATTENDANCE										
Full-time	2,485	31.3	2,752	29.7	647	31.0	**5,886**	**30.5**	5,782	30.9
Part-time	5,445	68.7	6,500	70.3	1,440	69.0	**13, 385**	**69.5**	12,937	69.1
GENDER										
Male	3,309	41.7	3,651	39.5	770	36.9	**7, 731**	**40.1**	7,545	40.3
Female	4,621	58.3	5,601	60.5	1,317	63.1	**11, 540**	**59.9**	11,174	59.7
RACE										
White	7,274	91.7	7,895	85.3	1,993	95.5	**17,164**	**89.1**	16,876	90.2
Black	218	2.7	762	8.2	17	0.8	**997**	**5.2**	888	4.7
American Indian	67	0.8	103	1.1	16	0.8	**186**	**1.0**	125	0.7
Asian	126	1.6	234	2.5	18	0.9	**378**	**2.0**	309	1.7
Hispanic	51	2.4	202	2.2	39	1.9	**435**	**2.3**	406	2.2
Non-Resident Aliens	33	0.6	56	0.6	4	0.2	**111**	**0.6**	115	0.6
AGE										
15-19	2,019	25.5	2,084	22.5	566	27.1	**4,670**	**24.2**	5,093	27.2
20-24	2,413	30.4	2,732	29.5	630	30.2	**5,776**	**30.0**	5,573	29.8
25-29	1,207	15.2	1,524	16.5	279	13.4	**3010**	**15.6**	2,821	15.1
30-34	838	10.6	1,061	11.5	239	11.5	**2,138**	**11.1**	1,981	10.6
35-39	581	7.3	804	8.7	144	6.9	**1,529**	**7.9**	1,381	7.4
40-44	424	5.4	524	5.7	124	5.9	**1,072**	**5.6**	979	5.2
45-49	242	3.0	274	3.0	61	2.9	**577**	**3.0**	459	2.5
50-54	98	1.2	121	1.3	25	1.2	**244**	**1.3**	231	1.2
55-59	48	0.6	76	0.8	10	0.5	**134**	**0.7**	104	0.6
60 and over	56	0.7	43	0.5	4	0.2	**103**	**0.5**	87	0.5
Not known	4	0.1	9	0.1	5	0.2	**18**	**0.1**	10	0.1

*Includes 2 full-time white students studying for the AA degree, 1 male (20-24 yrs) and 1 female (15-19 yrs), who has Open Campus designation for home campus.

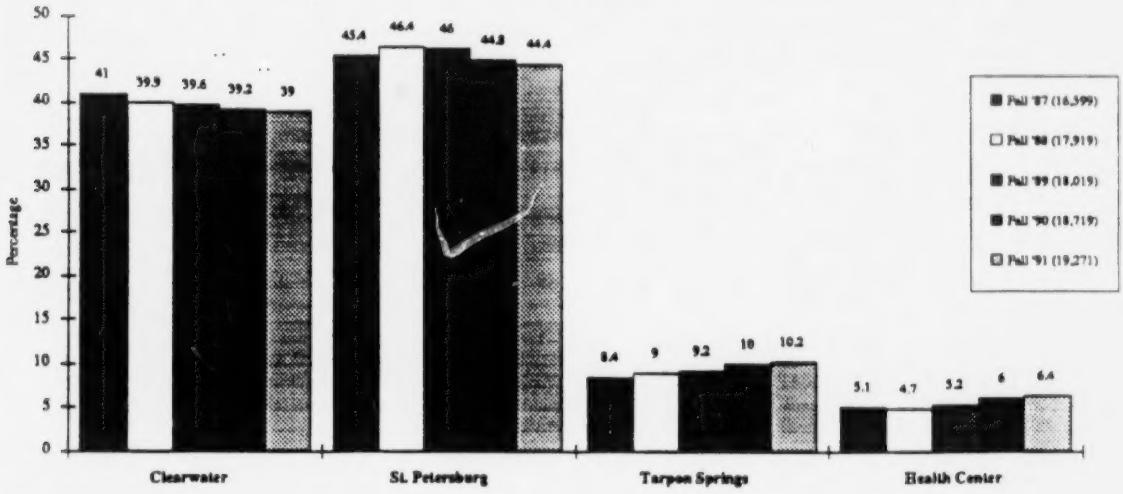
The graphs depicted on the following pages describe the student headcount population enrolled in credit courses at the college by FTE date during Fall semester for the last five years. Graph 1 shows the distribution of student headcount enrollment by home campus for Fall 1987 through Fall 1991. Recall that students are asked to identify one of three locations as a home campus when they apply for admission -- St. Petersburg Campus, Clearwater Campus or Tarpon Springs Center.

Graph 1
FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT AT HOME CAMPUS
CREDIT STUDENTS
Five Year Trend



The total number of students has increased collegewide from 16,599 in Fall 1987 to 19,271 in in Fall 1991. The Tarpon Springs Center has shown a steady increase in enrollment over the five year period, while Clearwater and St. Petersburg, though increasing in numbers, have a slightly decreasing percentage of the total enrollment. This was more noticeable when the students matriculated in health related programs, who have a home campus designation other than the Health Education Center, were shown separately from their home campuses as in Graph 2.

Graph 2
FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY SITE
CREDIT STUDENTS
Five Year Trend



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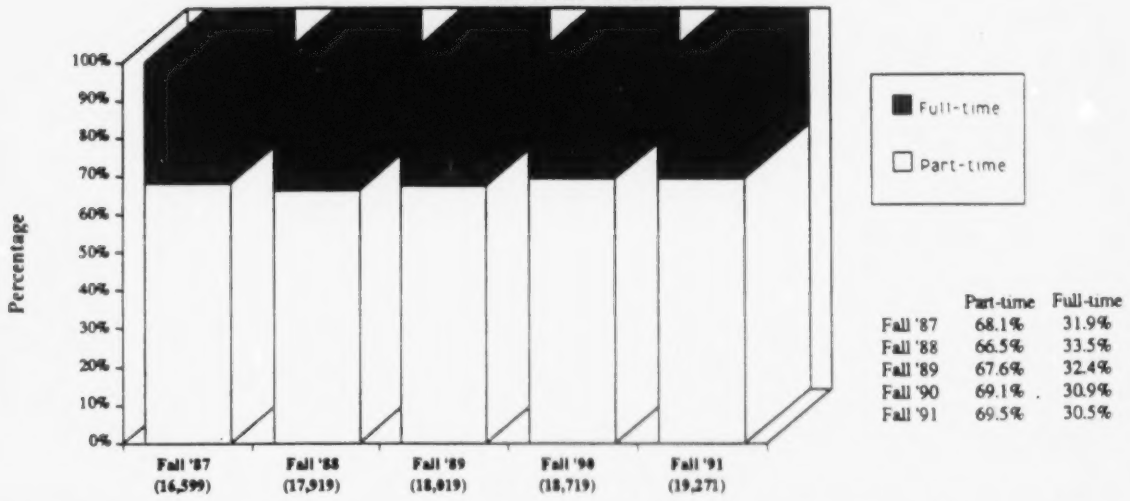
Although total headcount enrollment has been increasing, both Clearwater and St. Petersburg have shown a decrease in the percentage of the total for the last five years, while the Health Education Center and Tarpon Springs Center have shown an increase for the same years.

Graph 3 depicts the distribution of students based on matriculated credit hours with full-time enrollment equal to 12 or more hours. Graph 3A shows that collegewide, since 1987, a little less than one-third of SPJC students were enrolled in 12 or more hours.

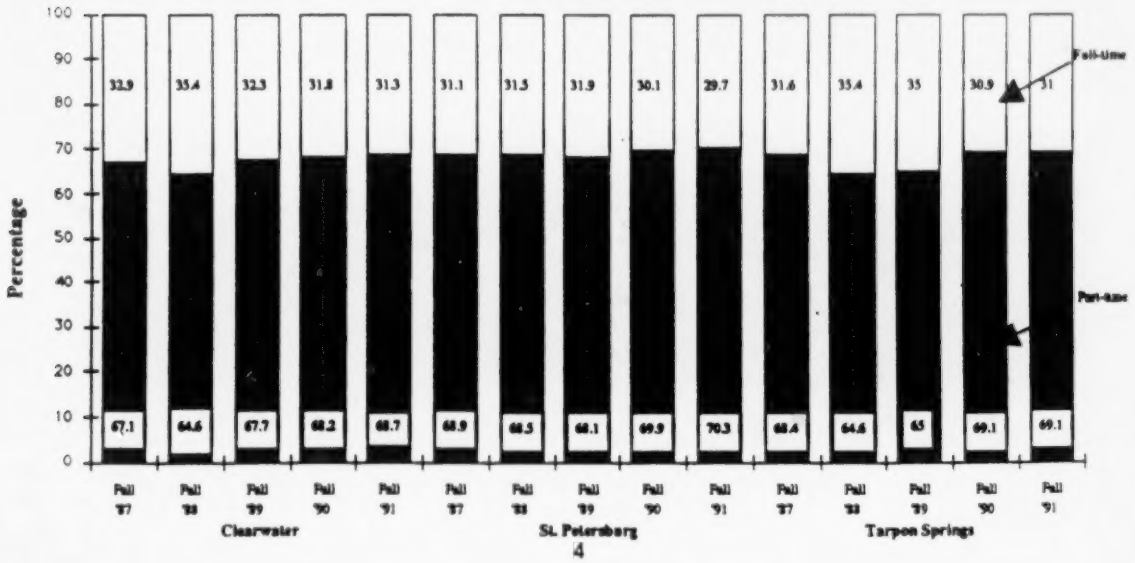
Graph 3A
FULL/PART-TIME HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT
CREDIT STUDENTS
Five Year Trend



	Part-time	Full-time
Fall '87	68.1%	31.9%
Fall '88	66.5%	33.5%
Fall '89	67.6%	32.4%
Fall '90	69.1%	30.9%
Fall '91	69.5%	30.5%

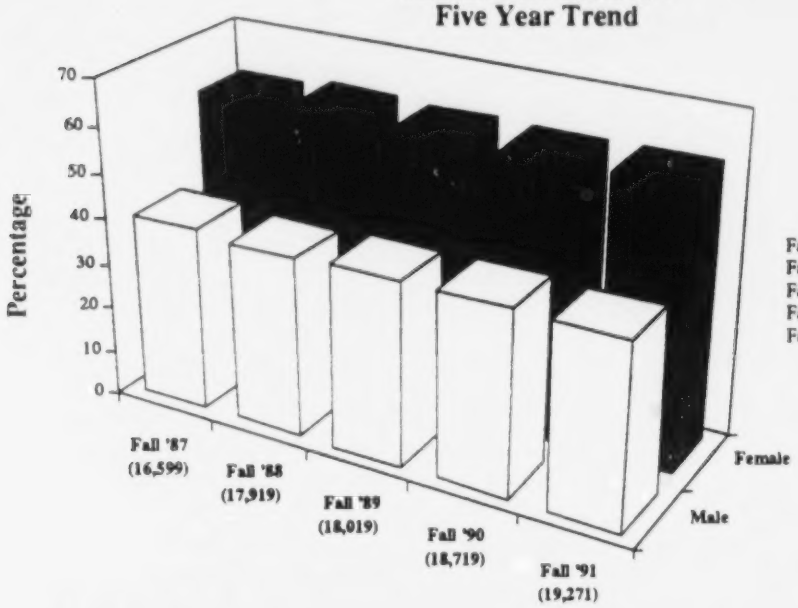
This pattern has been followed on all the home campuses, as shown in Graph 3B, although the St. Petersburg Campus has tended to enroll somewhat fewer full-time students than the other campuses each year.

Graph 3B
HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY HOME CAMPUS
CREDIT STUDENTS FULL/PART-TIME
Five Year Trend



Graph 4A, which displays the collegewide headcount enrollment by gender for Fall 1987 through Fall 1991, shows that about three-fifths of SPJC students have been female during the five years.

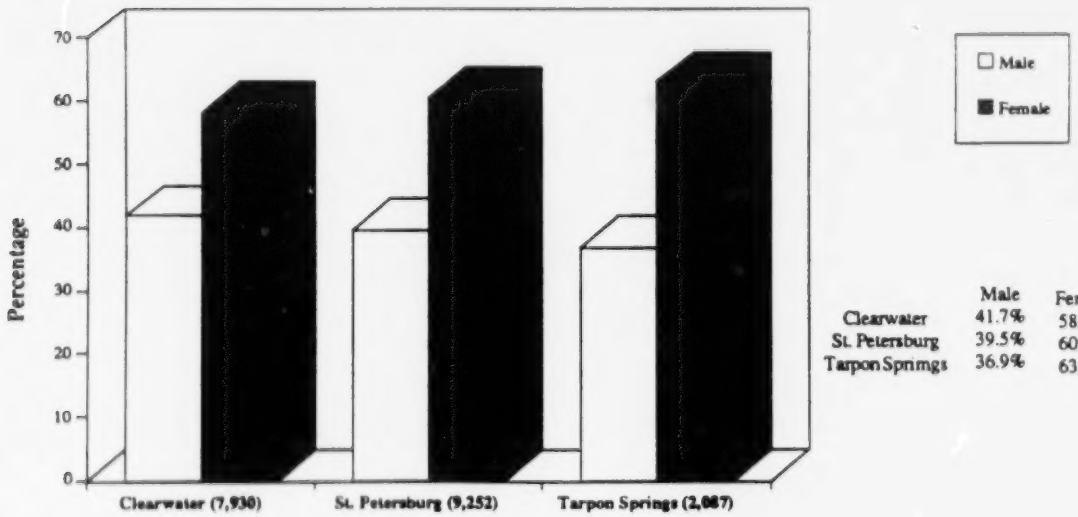
Graph 4A
HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY GENDER
CREDIT STUDENTS
Five Year Trend



	Male	Female
Fall '87	40.2%	59.8%
Fall '88	39.3%	60.7%
Fall '89	39.9%	60.1%
Fall '90	40.3%	59.7%
Fall '91	40.1%	59.9%

When the Fall 1991 enrollment by gender is compared by home campus, we find on Graph 4B that, although the number of females continues to be about three-fifths, there are variations by site around that percentage with Clearwater having the smallest at 58.3% and Tarpon Springs the largest at 63.1%. This relationship is consistent with the Fall 1990 data.

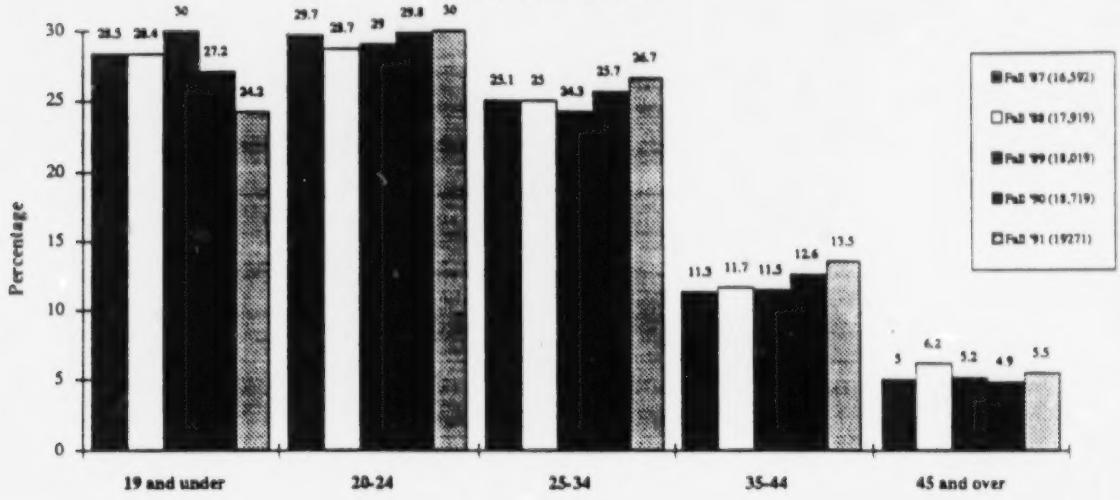
Graph 4B
HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY GENDER
CREDIT STUDENTS
Fall 1991



	Male	Female
Clearwater	41.7%	58.3%
St. Petersburg	39.5%	60.5%
Tarpon Springs	36.9%	63.1%

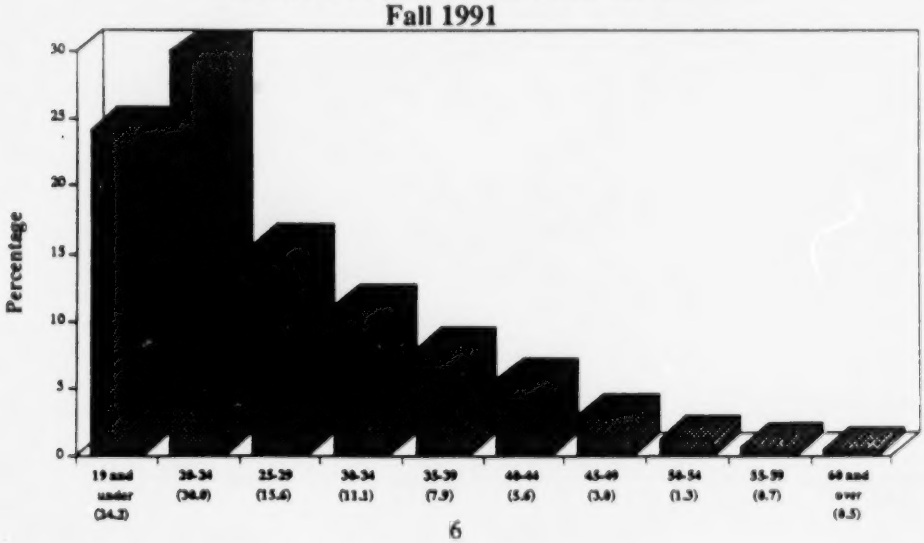
Graph 5A displays the percentage of students by age for Fall 1987 through Fall 1991. More than half of our student population was 24 years of age or younger and more than four-fifths were 34 years of age or younger. This has been true throughout the five year timeframe. Interestingly, the percentage of students in the 19 and under category in Fall 1991 decreased to the smallest percentage in the five years, yet they remain almost one-fourth of the college's enrollment.

Graph 5A
FALL HEADCOUNT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE
CREDIT STUDENT ENROLLMENT
Five Year Trend



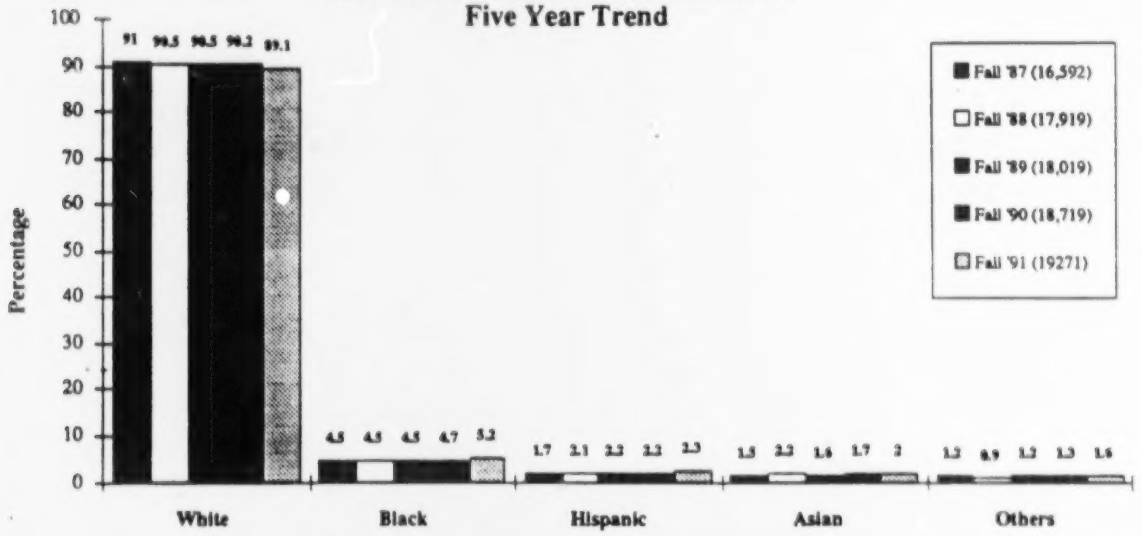
Graph 5B further classifies the age of students enrolled in Fall 1991 into more discrete age groups. The majority (54.2%) were in the traditional age brackets (24 years or less) for college students. The percentage of students in the remaining age brackets declined as the age increased. Only 19.0% of the population was 35 years or more, however, this was a slight increase over Fall 1989 and Fall 1990 when the percentages were 16.7% and 17.4%, respectively.

Graph 5B
HEADCOUNT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE
CREDIT STUDENT ENROLLMENT
Fall 1991



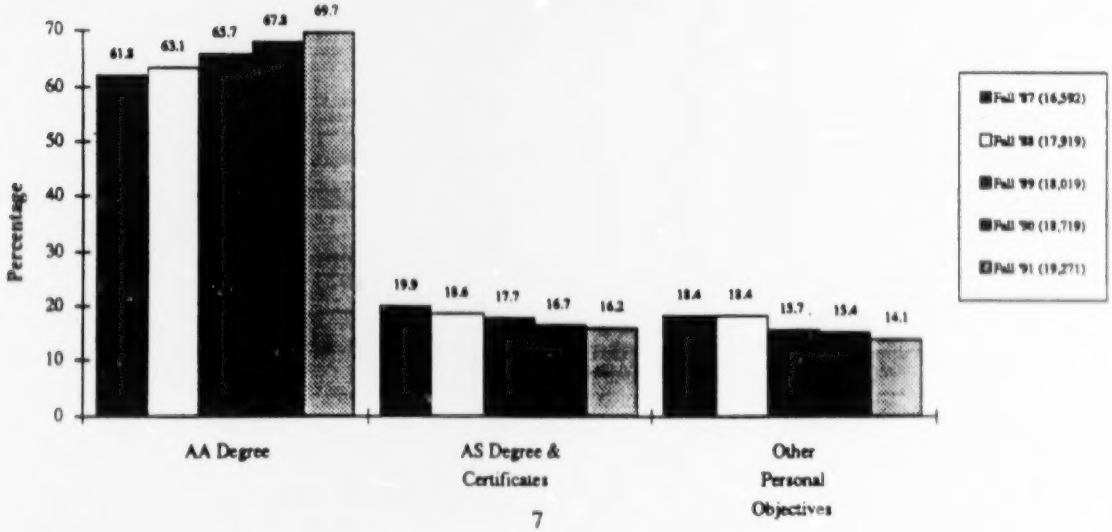
Graph 6 displays the Fall headcount enrollment by ethnic distribution. During the first four years the percentage of black (less than 5%) and white (about 91%) students remained relatively stable. Although the percentage of black students increased slightly for the first time in Fall 1990 (from 4.5% to 4.7 %), Fall 1991 has witnessed the largest percent increase in a single year (from 4.7% to 5.2%). The percentage of Hispanic and Asian students, although a relatively small percentage of the overall population, also has experienced an increase in the five year period.

Graph 6
HEADCOUNT DISTRIBUTION BY ETHNICITY
CREDIT STUDENT ENROLLMENT
Five Year Trend



The percentage of students enrolled in the major program categories is displayed in Graph 7. The majority of students are matriculated in the college transfer program, a category that has steadily increased each year to include more than two-thirds of the credit enrollment (69.7%) in Fall 1991.

Graph 7
FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM
CREDIT STUDENTS
Five Year Trend



Since Fall 1988, the number of students enrolled in A.S. degree and certificate programs has decreased slightly overall, and significantly as a percentage of the total. This phenomenon has greatly impacted college funds because the formula upon which community colleges are funded traditionally provides a larger appropriation for high cost vocational programs. In Fall 1990, courses that were part of the A.S. degree curriculum, but were classified as A & P courses were re-classified to partially defer the impact upon the community college funding formula. Although the student semester hours have increased for Fall 1991, there continues to be a decrease in A.S. degree student headcount.

In summary, the average SPJC student enrolled in Fall 1991 is not very different from the one who enrolled five years ago. She is likely to be white, of traditional college age, and matriculated part-time in an A.A. degree program. It is important to note, however, that there were small but interesting changes in the student body in Fall 1991. The percentage of minority students increased slightly and the number of students 24 years and under decreased slightly.

QUESTIONS

1. Given the college enrollment growth, what factors are behind the continued growth in the A.A. degree program while the A.S. degree program enrollments have stabilized?

2. There were three years of healthy enrollment increases at a time when the Pinellas County high school graduation rate had remained flat. The enrollment increase in Fall 1991 has been smaller than the previous three years. What models of enrollment planning should the college be reviewing in view of this change?

3. The majority of students enrolled at SPJC are of traditional college age. The percentage of students 19 years of age and under decreased to its lowest proportion in five years while there has been a slight increase in the number of 25-44 year old degree students. How has the economy impacted the enrollment of the non-traditional student? Is the college meeting the needs of the older returning students who may/may not have advanced degrees but are seeking more education to facilitate an occupational change and may/may not be seeking an A.A./A.S. degree?

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